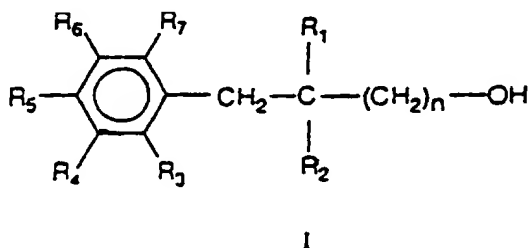


Claims 1-7 (canceled)

8. (previously presented) Composition according to claim 14 which contains
- (a) 0.01 to 10% by wt. of a compound of formula I, and
 - (b) 0.1 to 90% by wt. of a compound selected from C₁-C₆ alkyl alcohols, unsubstituted or substituted with a C₆-C₁₂ aryl, aralkyl or aryloxy group, anionic cationic, amphoteric or nonionic surfactants, dimethylformamide, betaines and glycerine.

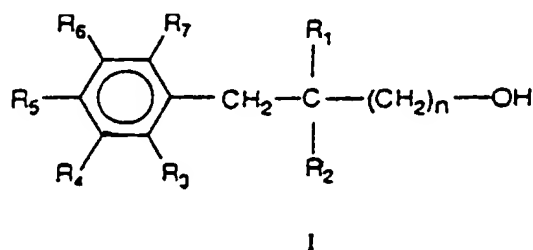
Claims 9-12 (canceled)

13. (previously presented) A compound according to formula I,



wherein R₁, R₃, R₅, R₆, and R₇ are hydrogen; R₂ is an ethyl group; R₄ is chlorine; and n is 1 or 2.

14. (previously presented) A disinfectant, antiseptic, antimycotic, deodorant or preservative comprising:
- a compound selected from alcohols, surfactants and solvents; and
- at least one compound according to formula I:



wherein,

R_1 is hydrogen or is selected from C_1 - C_8 alkyl, uninterrupted or interrupted by oxygen and/or sulphur atoms, C_2 - C_8 alkenyl and C_3 - C_8 alkynyl;

R_2 is selected from C_1 - C_8 alkyl, uninterrupted or interrupted by oxygen and/or sulphur atoms, C_2 - C_8 alkenyl and C_3 - C_8 alkynyl; and

each of R_3 to R_7 independently, is hydrogen, halogen, nitrile or thiocyanate, or selected from C_1 - C_8 alkyl, uninterrupted or interrupted by oxygen and/or sulphur atoms, C_2 - C_8 alkenyl and C_3 - C_8 alkynyl, optionally attached to the aromatic ring by -S- or -O-, and n is 1 or 2,

with the proviso, that

i) when R_1 and all groups R_3 through R_7 are hydrogen, then

$$n = 2;$$

ii) when R_1 and R_2 are C_1 - C_6 alkyl and

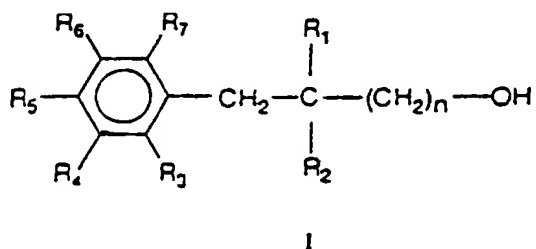
a) all groups R_3 to R_7 are hydrogen, or

- b) R_5 is methyl, methoxy or chloride, and all other groups R_3 , R_4 , R_6 and R_7 are hydrogen, then $n = 2$;
- iii) when R_1 , R_2 and R_4 are methyl and all groups R_3 and R_5 through R_7 are hydrogen, then $n = 2$;
- iv) when R_1 and all groups R_3 , R_4 , R_6 and R_7 are hydrogen and R_5 is methyl, isopropyl, tert-butyl, or methoxy, then $n = 2$;
- v) when R_1 , R_3 , R_6 and R_7 are hydrogen, R_2 is methyl, and R_4 and/or R_5 are hydrogen or C_1 - C_6 alkyl, then $n = 2$;
- vi) when R_1 and R_4 through R_7 are hydrogen, R_2 is methyl or ethyl, and R_3 is methyl or methoxy, then $n = 2$;
- vii) when R_1 , R_3 , R_5 and R_7 are hydrogen, R_2 is methyl, R_4 and R_6 are methyl or R_4 is hydrogen and R_6 is methyl, then $n = 2$; and
- viii) when R_1 is hydrogen, R_2 is butyl, R_3 and R_5 are chloride, and all other groups R_4 , R_6 and R_7 are hydrogen, then $n = 2$.

Claim 15 (canceled)

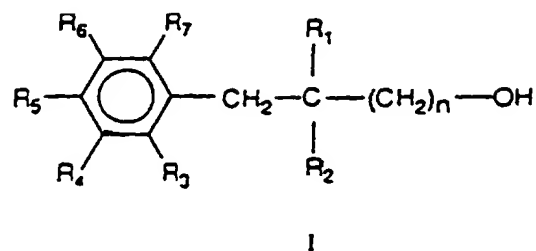
16. (previously presented) A composition according to claim 14, wherein said compound according to formula I is present in an amount of about 0.01 to about 10% by weight.

17. (previously presented) A composition according to claim 14, wherein said compound according to formula I is present in an amount of about 0.05 to about 8% by weight.
18. (previously presented) A composition according to claim 14, wherein said compound according to formula I is present in an amount of about 0.1 to about 5% by weight.
19. (withdrawn) A compound according to the formula I



wherein R_3 , R_4 , R_6 and R_7 are all hydrogen, R_5 is methyl, R_2 is ethyl, R_1 is hydrogen, and $n = 1$.

20. (withdrawn) Process for the production of a compound of formula I:



wherein, R_3 , R_4 , R_6 and R_7 are all hydrogen, R_5 is methyl, R_2 is ethyl, R_1 is hydrogen, and $n = 1$

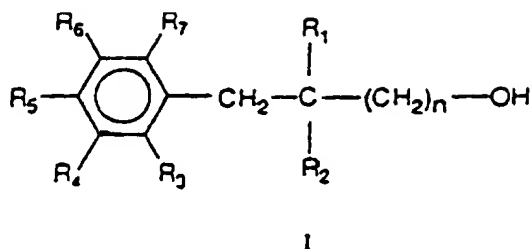
said process comprising the steps of:

- a) monoalkylating a malonic acid dialkyl ester to introduce the group R_2 ;
- b) dialkylating the monoalkylated malonic acid alkyl ester with a benzyl halide optionally substituted at the aromatic ring to introduce the groups R_3 through R_7 which are other than hydrogen;
- c) saponifying and decarboxylating the dialkylated malonic acid dialkyl ester to form a corresponding 3-aryl-substituted propionic acid, and
- d) reducing the 3-aryl-substituted propionic acid to form a desired alcohol of formula I.

21. (previously presented) A shampoo or shower gel containing a preservative comprising:

a compound selected from alcohols, surfactants and solvents;
a re-fatting agent; and

a compound according to formula I:



wherein,

R_1 is hydrogen or is selected from C_1 - C_8 alkyl, uninterrupted or interrupted by oxygen and/or sulphur atoms, C_2 - C_8 alkenyl and C_3 - C_8 alkynyl;

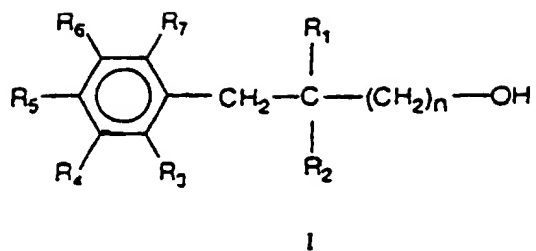
R_2 is selected from C_1 - C_8 alkyl, uninterrupted or interrupted by oxygen and/or sulphur atoms, C_2 - C_8 alkenyl and C_3 - C_8 alkynyl; and

each of R_3 to R_7 independently, is hydrogen, halogen, nitrile or thiocyanate, or selected from C_1 - C_8 alkyl, uninterrupted or interrupted by oxygen and/or sulphur atoms, C_2 - C_8 alkenyl and C_3 - C_8 alkynyl, optionally attached to the aromatic ring by -S- or -O-, and n is 1 or 2, with the proviso that when R_1 and all groups R_3 , R_4 , R_6 and R_7 are hydrogen and R_5 is methyl, isopropyl, tert-butyl, or methoxy, then $n = 2$.

22. (previously presented) A method of disinfecting a surface comprising the step of applying a disinfectant to said surface, said disinfectant comprising:

a compound selected from alcohols, surfactants and solvents; and

a compound according to formula I:



wherein,

R_1 is hydrogen or is selected from C_1 - C_8 alkyl, uninterrupted or interrupted by oxygen and/or sulphur atoms, C_2 - C_8 alkenyl and C_3 - C_8 alkynyl;

R_2 is selected from C_1 - C_8 alkyl, uninterrupted or interrupted by oxygen and/or sulphur atoms, C_2 - C_8 alkenyl and C_3 - C_8 alkynyl; and

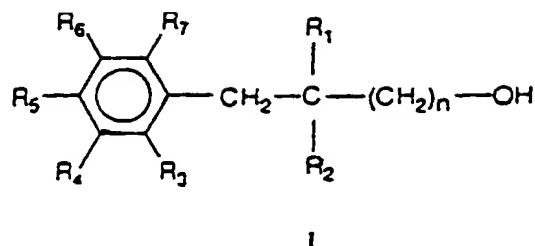
each of R_3 to R_7 independently, is hydrogen, halogen, nitrile or thiocyanate, or selected from C_1 - C_8 alkyl, uninterrupted or interrupted by oxygen and/or sulphur atoms, C_2 - C_8 alkenyl and C_3 - C_8 alkynyl, optionally attached to the aromatic ring by -S- or -O-, and n is 1 or 2, with the proviso that when R_1 and all groups R_3 , R_4 , R_6 and R_7 are hydrogen and R_5 is methyl, isopropyl, tert-butyl, or methoxy, then $n = 2$.

23. (previously presented) A method according to claim 22, wherein said surface is skin, a mucous membrane, or a surgical glove.

24. (previously presented) A method of deodorizing a surface comprising the step of applying a disinfectant to said surface, said deodorant comprising:

a compound selected from alcohols, surfactants and solvents; and

a compound according to formula I:

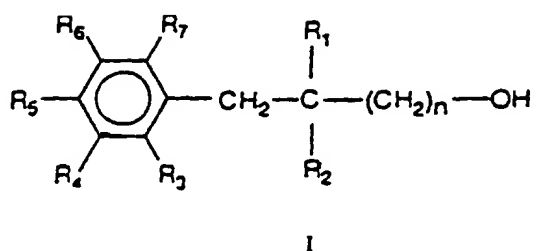


wherein,

- R_1 is hydrogen or is selected from C_1 - C_8 alkyl, uninterrupted or interrupted by oxygen and/or sulphur atoms, C_2 - C_8 alkenyl and C_3 - C_8 alkynyl;
- R_2 is selected from C_1 - C_8 alkyl, uninterrupted or interrupted by oxygen and/or sulphur atoms, C_2 - C_8 alkenyl and C_3 - C_8 alkynyl; and
- each of R_3 to R_7 independently, is hydrogen, halogen, nitrile or thiocyanate, or selected from C_1 - C_8 alkyl, uninterrupted or interrupted by oxygen and/or sulphur atoms, C_2 - C_8 alkenyl and C_3 - C_8 alkynyl, optionally attached to the aromatic ring by -S- or -O-, and n is 1 or 2, with the proviso that when R_1 and all groups R_3 , R_4 , R_6 and R_7 are hydrogen and R_5 is methyl, isopropyl, tert-butyl, or methoxy, then $n = 2$.

25. (previously presented) A method according to claim 24, wherein said surface is skin.

26. (currently amended) Process for the production of a compound of formula I:



wherein,

R₁ is hydrogen;

R₂ is selected from C₁-C₈ alkyl, uninterrupted or interrupted by oxygen and/or sulphur atoms, C₂-C₈ alkenyl and C₃-C₈ alkynyl; and

each of R₃ to R₇ independently, is hydrogen, halogen, nitrile or thiocyanate, or selected from C₁-C₈ alkyl, uninterrupted or interrupted by oxygen and/or sulphur atoms, C₂-C₈ alkenyl and C₃-C₈ alkynyl, optionally attached to the aromatic ring by -S- or -O-, and n is 1 or 2;

with the proviso, that

~~i) when all groups R₃ through R₇ are hydrogen, then~~

~~n = 2;~~

~~ii) when all groups R₃, R₄, R₆ and R₇ are hydrogen and R₅ is methyl,~~

~~isopropyl, tert-butyl, or methoxy, then n = 2;~~

~~iii) when R₃, R₆ and R₇ are hydrogen, R₂ is methyl, and R₄ and/or R₅ are~~

~~hydrogen or C₁-C₆ alkyl, then n = 2;~~

~~iv) when R₄ through R₇ are hydrogen, R₂ is methyl or ethyl, and R₃ is~~

~~_____methyl or methoxy, then $n = 2$;~~

~~_____v) when R_3 , R_5 and R_7 are hydrogen, R_2 is methyl, R_4 and R_6 are methyl~~

~~_____or R_4 is hydrogen and R_6 is methyl, then $n = 2$; and~~

~~_____vi) when R_2 is butyl, R_3 and R_5 are chloride, and all other groups~~

~~_____ R_4 , R_6 and R_7 are hydrogen, then $n = 2$;~~

said process comprising the steps of:

- f3
- a) monoalkylating a malonic acid dialkyl ester to introduce the group R_2 ;
 - b) dialkylating the monoalkylated malonic acid alkyl ester with a benzyl halide optionally substituted at the aromatic ring to introduce the groups R_3 through R_7 which are other than hydrogen;
 - c) saponifying and decarboxylating the dialkylated malonic acid dialkyl ester to form a corresponding 3-aryl-substituted propionic acid, and
 - d) reducing the 3-aryl-substituted propionic acid to form a desired alcohol of formula I.

Claim 27 (canceled)

- f4
28. (withdrawn) A disinfectant, antiseptic, antimycotic, deodorant or preservative according to claim 27, wherein R_3 to R_7 are hydrogen, R_1 is hydrogen, R_2 is hydrogen and n is 1.

29. (withdrawn) A disinfectant, antiseptic, antimycotic, deodorant or preservative according to claim 27, wherein R_3 to R_7 are hydrogen, R_1 is hydrogen, R_2 is methyl, and n is 1.
30. (withdrawn) A disinfectant, antiseptic, antimycotic, deodorant or preservative according to claim 27, wherein R_3 and R_5 to R_7 are hydrogen, R_4 is methyl, R_1 is hydrogen, R_2 is methyl, and n is 1.
31. (withdrawn) A disinfectant, antiseptic, antimycotic, deodorant or preservative according to claim 27, wherein R_3 to R_7 are hydrogen, R_1 is hydrogen, R_2 is ethyl, and n is 1.
32. (withdrawn) A disinfectant, antiseptic, antimycotic, deodorant or preservative according to claim 27, wherein R_3 and R_5 to R_7 are hydrogen, R_4 is methyl, R_1 is hydrogen, R_2 is ethyl, and n is 1.
33. (previously presented) A disinfectant, antiseptic, antimycotic, deodorant or preservative according to claim 14, wherein R_3 and R_5 to R_7 are hydrogen, R_4 is chlorine, R_1 is hydrogen, R_2 is ethyl and n is 1.

34. (previously presented) A disinfectant, antiseptic, antimycotic, deodorant or preservative according to claim 14, wherein R_4 to R_7 are hydrogen, R_3 is chlorine, R_1 is hydrogen, R_2 is ethyl and n is 1.
35. (previously presented) A disinfectant, antiseptic, antimycotic, deodorant or preservative according to claim 14, wherein R_3 , R_4 , R_6 and R_7 are hydrogen, R_5 is chlorine, R_1 is hydrogen, R_2 is ethyl and n is 1.
36. (withdrawn) A disinfectant, antiseptic, antimycotic, deodorant or preservative according to claim 27, wherein R_4 and R_5 are chlorine, R_1 is hydrogen, R_2 is ethyl and n is 1.
- 45 37. (withdrawn) A disinfectant, antiseptic, antimycotic, deodorant or preservative according to claim 27, wherein R_4 to R_7 are hydrogen, R_3 is methyl, R_1 is hydrogen, R_2 is ethyl and n is 1.
38. (withdrawn) A disinfectant, antiseptic, antimycotic, deodorant or preservative according to claim 27, wherein R_3 , R_6 and R_7 are hydrogen, R_4 and R_5 are methyl, R_1 is hydrogen, R_2 is ethyl and n is 1.

39. (withdrawn) A disinfectant, antiseptic, antimycotic, deodorant or preservative according to claim 27, wherein R_3 and R_5 to R_7 are hydrogen, R_4 is methoxy, R_1 is hydrogen, R_2 is ethyl and n is 1.
40. (withdrawn) A disinfectant, antiseptic, antimycotic, deodorant or preservative according to claim 27, wherein R_3 , R_6 and R_7 are hydrogen, R_4 and R_5 are methoxy, R_1 is hydrogen, R_2 is ethyl and n is 1.
41. (withdrawn) A disinfectant, antiseptic, antimycotic, deodorant or preservative according to claim 27, wherein R_3 to R_7 are hydrogen, R_1 is hydrogen, R_2 is butylene, and n is 1.
42. (withdrawn) A disinfectant, antiseptic, antimycotic, deodorant or preservative according to claim 27, wherein R_3 to R_7 are hydrogen, R_1 is hydrogen, R_2 is pentyl and n is 1.
43. (new) A disinfectant, antiseptic, antimycotic, deodorant or preservative according to claim 14, wherein R_1 is C_2H_5 , R_2 through R_7 are H, and n is 1.
44. (new) A shampoo or shower gel containing a preservative according to claim 21, wherein R_1 is C_2H_5 , R_2 through R_7 are H, and n is 1.

45. (new) A method according to claim 22, wherein R_1 is C_2H_5 , R_2 through R_7 are H, and n is 1.
46. (new) A method according to claim 24, wherein R_1 is C_2H_5 , R_2 through R_7 are H, and n is 1.
47. (new) A method according to claim 26, wherein R_1 is C_2H_5 , R_2 through R_7 are H, and n is 1.